

**APPROVED**

**Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee**

**February 28, 2008**

Members present: Harry Beyer, Gerry Boyle, Elissa Brown, Jim Coutre, Dinny McIntyre, Ken Miller, Barbara Pike, Andrea Siani, Jim Terry

Members absent: none

Others present: Marcia Rasmussen and a number of citizens

Recorder: Barbara Pike, Clerk

Moved, seconded, passed:

To accept minutes, as amended, from the February 14, 2008, Advisory Committee meeting

Committee member comments:

The restroom in West Concord should not be located near Concord Park Assisted Living building.

The Administrator of the Conservation Commission in Brewster was contacted about that town's experience having a rail trail pass near Sheep Pond. She reported that there had been no complaints that trail users are overusing the public swimming access and that cyclists usually stay on their bikes in that area.

Materials distributed:

Maps of the West Concord MBTA crossing area and report from Marcia's discussion with Jim Shuris, Town Engineer

White Pond People Management Plan, dated January 29, 2008

Discussion:

Marcia reported on her meeting with Jim Shuris. He recommended that, if the MBTA would not allow the trail to cross the tracks at the existing commuter crossing, all cyclists should be directed to walk their bikes on the sidewalk. This would create a break in the trail.

There are similar situations in Mansfield and the proposed extension of the Shining Sea bike path in Falmouth where rail trails would cross an active MBTA line.

It was suggested these plans be discussed with the West Concord merchants.

Moved, seconded and passed:

In the 25% design, the rail trail will stop near Commonwealth Avenue (adjacent to parcel 2195) and resume across from Junction Park at Main Street (near parcel 2458). Trail users will be directed to walk their bikes on the sidewalk on the east side of Commonwealth Avenue and across Main Street. They may resume riding south of Main Street.

Fred Lindgren, chair of the White Pond Advisory Committee (WPAC), presented the White Pond People Management plan prepared by the WPAC.

Location of one handicapped parking spot at Williams Road within the ROW, north east of the rail trail, was discussed.

Designs for the bicycle parking racks at the rest stops were discussed.

It was decided to keep the emergency vehicle turn around south of Powder Mill Road in the plans.

it was decided to eliminate the Williams Road emergency access and use the road that currently accesses the Light Plan substation for emergency access instead.

Locating the access ramp from Powder Mill Road on the north west side of the trail was discussed. The feasibility of this location will be investigated.

The committee will prepare a FAQ. Suggestions should be sent to Andrea by March 3 or 4.

Elissa will present the 25% design at the Hearing on March 17.

The Advisory Committee will discuss recommendations on the four warrant articles after the Hearing on March 17.

Future meeting schedule:

March 6, 7:30 - 9:30 pm, Peabody Middle School: Question and answer session with the Advisory Committee

March 10, 7:30 pm, Town House Selectmen's Room, Advisory Committee's presentation of the 25% design to the Selectmen

March 13, 7:30 am, Town House Selectmen's Room, committee meeting

March 17, Alcott School Auditorium: Board of Selectmen and Fin Com hearing on all 4 BFRT warrant articles

March 20, 7:30 am, Town House Selectmen's Room, committee meeting

April 17, 7:30 am, Town House Selectmen's Room, committee meeting

Citizen comments: Peter Flynn, Judy LaRocca, Jane Cullinane, Jill Appel, Judith Sprott, Jane Coutre, Marian Thornton

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 am.